

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

COMUSFORAZ LAJES FLD AZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PO

SUBJECT: FAR LEFTISTS ARRESTED FOR TERRORIST ACTIVITIES

SUMMARY: THE GOP ARRESTED JUNE 20 EIGHTEEN MEMBERS OF THE FAR-LEFT REVOLUTIONARY PARTY OF THE PROLETARIAT FOR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN BANK ROBBERIES, BOMBINGS AND MURDERS OF POLICE. PORTUGUESE LEADERS ARE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER THE PROSPECTS OF TERRORISM. BY CRACKING DOWN ON GROUPS LIKE THE PRP WHICH HAVE LINKS TO FOREIGN EXTREMIST GROUPS, THE PORTUGUESE SOUGHT TO ATTACK THE PROBLEM OF TERRORISM IN AN INCIPIENT PHASE. END SUMMARY.

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1. CRACKDOWN ON REVOLUTIONARY LEFT: THE PORTUGUESE POLICE AND NATIONAL GUARD JUNE 20 ARRESTED EIGHTEEN MEMBERS OF THE FAR-LEFT REVOLUTIONARY PARTY OF THE PROLETARIAT (PRP) FOR ALLEGED INVOLVEMENT IN 25 BANK ROBBERIES, 25 BOMBINGS, AND THE MURDER OF TWO POLICEMEN. WARRANTS ARE OUT FOR SIX OTHERS IN THE CASE. THE POLICE SWEEP INCLUDED ARRESTS AND SEARCHES OF PRP HEADQUARTERS IN AT LEAST SEVEN CITIES FROM

NORTH TO SOUTH.

2. PRP AND ITS LEADERS: THE PRP AND THE JUDICIARY POLICE ENGAGED IN A MARCH 21 SHOOTOUT IN OPORTO WHICH RESULTED IN THE DEATH OF ONE POLICEMAN WHEN THE PRP SOUGHT TO FREE SEVERAL JAILED PRP MEMBERS. AS A RESULT OF THE OPORTO SHOOTOUT AND EARLIER INCIDENTS, THE JUDICIAL POLICE STEPPED UP ITS INVESTIGATION OF PRP ACTIVITIES. THE REVOLUTIONARY PARTY OF THE PROLETARIAT, WHICH HAS LINKS WITH FOREIGN EXTREMIST ORGANIZATIONS, CARRIED OUT BANK ROBBERIES AND OTHER VIOLENT ACTIVITIES IN PORTUGAL PRIOR TO THE APRIL 1974 COUP. AMONG THE 18 PRP MEMBERS ARRESTED JUNE 20 WERE PARTY LEADERS ISABEL DO CARMO AND HER COMPANION CARLOS ANTUNES. CARMO, A MEDICAL DOCTOR, WAS EMOTIONALLY LINKED TO LEFTIST MILITARY LEADER OTELO SARAIVA DE CARVALHO IN THE HEADY DAYS OF THE PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION. SHE REPORTEDLY SERVED AS A POLITICAL ADVISER TO OTELO DURING 1975 AND DURING HIS UNSUCCESSFUL 1976 BID FOR THE PRESIDENCY.

3. COMMENT: PORTUGUESE LEADERS ARE INCREASINGLY CONCERNED OVER THE PROSPECTS OF TERRORISM, HENCE MARIO SOARES'S BID TO THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOUR WEEKS AGO FOR GREATER AUTHORITY TO DEAL WITH TERRORISM. IN CRACKING DOWN ON THE PRP, THE PORTUGUESE SOUGHT TO ATTACK THE TERRORISM PROBLEM IN AN INCIPIENT PHASE. THE GOVERNMENT'S CRACKDOWN ON THE LEFTIST PRP ALSO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SERVES TO BALANCE A LAW PASSED BY THE ASSEMBLY JUNE 15, SIMILAR TO POST-WORLD WAR II LAWS IN GERMANY AND ITALY, BARRING FASCIST ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES. THE ANTI-FASCIST LAW HAS PROVOKED OUTCRIES FROM THE RESURGENT RIGHT.
BLOOMFIELD

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